IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4 and 19.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously presented). A holding device according to claim 19, wherein the contact region is formed by at least one roll (40).

3. (Original). A holding device according to claim 2, wherein the at least one roll (40) has a spherical shape.

4. (Currently Amended). A holding device according to claim 19, wherein the clamping members (20) [[(2)]] are formed each by a clamping arm supported by a pivot support (18) displaceable relative to a driving gear (4) of the power tool (2) and by a slotted crank guide.

5. (Original). A holding device according to claim 4, wherein the slotted crank guide has at least one curved guide recess (24) provided in the clamping member (20), and a guide member (32) projecting into the curved guide recess (24) and connected with the drive gear (4) without a possibility of displacement relative thereto.

6. (Original). A holding device according to claim 5, wherein the curved guide recess (24) has toward a first end (26) thereof, in which the guide member (32) is arranged in the support position of the clamping members (20), a strongly curved section.

7. (Original). A holding device according to claim 6, wherein the first end (26) is formed by a straight end section (82) that extends substantially parallel to a drive-in direction (22) of the power tool (2) in the support position of the clamping members (20).

8. (Original). A holding device according to claim 6, wherein the curved guide recess (24) has toward the second end (28) thereof, in which the guide member (32) is arranged in the release position of the clamping members (20), a straight section (30).

9. (Original). A holding device according to claim 8, wherein the at least one contact region is arranged in a longitudinal direction of the straight section (30).

10. (Previously presented). A holding device according to claim 19, further comprising a locking device (56) for locking the clamping members (20) in the support position thereof and releasable upon application of a force to the contact region.

11. (Original). A holding device according to claim 10, wherein the locking device (56) comprises means for adjusting a locking position thereof.

12. (Original). A holding device according to claim 11, wherein the locking device (56) comprises a lock member (58) securable in different positions relative to the guiding gear (4) of the power tool, the holding device further comprising a displacement member (14) for supporting displaceable pivot supports (18) of the clamping members (20) and displaceable along the lock member (58), the locking device further comprising a locking member (64) displaceably arranged in the displacement member (14) and engageable in a recess (66) formed in the lock member, the locking member (64) being preloaded against the lock member (58) for locking the clamping members (20) in the support position thereof.

13. (Original). A holding device according to claim 12, comprising means for preloading the clamping members (20) in the release position thereof.

14. (Original). A holding device according to claim 13, wherein the preloading means comprises a coil spring (70) supported on the lock member (58) and supported, at opposite ends thereof, against the displacement member (14) and a driving gear (4) of the power tool (2), respectively.

15. (Previously presented). A holding device according to claim 19, wherein at least one clamping member (20) has in a region thereof, which abuts the stem (74) of the fastening element (50), a clamping jaw (38), a guide recess (24), and a resilient region (80) located between the clamping jaw (38) and the guide recess (24).

16. (Original). A holding device according to claim 15, wherein the clamping jaw (38) is releasably connected with the at least one clamping member (20).

17. (Original). A holding device according to claim 16, wherein the clamping jaw (38) has a wedge-shaped recess (39).

18. (Previously presented). A holding device according to claim 19, wherein the tool bit (46) has clamping means frictionally engaging a head (54) of the fastening element (50) with which the fastening element is inserted in the tool bit (46).

19. (Currently amended). A device (10) securable on a screw-driving power tool (2) for holding and supporting a fastening element (50) insertable in a tool bit (46) of the power tool (2), the holding device (10) comprising at least two clamping members (20) which abut a stem (74) of the fastening element (50) in a support position of the clamping members and which are displaceable, upon application of a force thereto in a direction opposite a drive-in direction of the power tool, from the support position thereof into a release position thereof in which the at least two clamping members (20) release the stem (74) [[(4)]], the clamping members (20) having at least one contact region (40) which forms, at least in the support position of the clamping members (20), a frontmost stop of the holding device (10) in the drive-in direction (22) of the power tool (2) for engaging a workpiece the fastening element (50) is being driven into, whereby the workpiece applies to the clamping members (20) the force in the direction opposite the drive-in direction.